

Kan. Cong. Dist. No. 5

Joe Skubitz
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <u>Kansas</u>	
COUNTY: <u>Harper</u>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	<u>Old Runnymede Church (preferred name)</u>
AND/OR HISTORIC:	<u>St. Patrick's Episcopal Church</u>

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Northeast corner, 11th and Pine</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Harper</u>			
STATE <u>Kansas</u>	CODE <u>67058</u>	COUNTY: <u>Harper</u>	CODE <u>077</u>

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: <u>Harper City Historical Society</u>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Old Runnymede Church</u> <u>11th and Pine</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Harper</u>	STATE: <u>Kansas</u>	CODE <u>67058</u>	CODE <u>20</u>

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: <u>Register of Deeds</u>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>Harper County Courthouse</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Anthony</u>	STATE: <u>Kansas</u>	CODE <u>67003</u>	CODE <u>20</u>

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: <u>NONE</u>			
DATE OF SURVEY: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____			
STREET AND NUMBER: _____			
CITY OR TOWN: _____	STATE: _____	CODE _____	CODE _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☐ Good☒ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☒ Moved☐ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Runnymede Church, which was relocated at Harper, Kansas, is a simple one-story building designed in early Gothic style. It measures approximately 70 feet in over-all length and 30 feet in width. Its steeply gabled roof reaches a height of 20 feet at the ridge. A small wooden cross rises from the shingled roof ridge near the west end. The exterior walls are constructed of wood framing covered with narrow lap siding painted gray.

Windows in the building are of the double-hung type and are placed in tall vertical openings with Gothic arched heads. Both stained glass and clear glass are used. Three of the stained glass windows are said to be original. At the main entrance is an ornate red-painted frame double door located in a pointed arch opening. A glass panel fills in the arch above the door.

Additions now adjoin the structure at both ends. On the east is a small wing housing the chancel facilities. Added to the west end is the entranceway. Both of these small additions are constructed of materials similar to those of the original building. The exterior is otherwise believed to be unchanged. Some of the interior furnishings, such as pews, kneeling benches, choir seats, a few Bibles and hymnals, are reported to be the originals used at Runnymede.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1889-1890

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>Western settlement</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Runnymede Church now located in Harper was built originally in the Runnymede settlement in northeastern Harper county. This community was established by a North Ireland emigrant, Francis J. S. (Ned) Turnley, who in the early 1880's purchased 1,700 acres of land along the Chikaskia river bottom about nine miles northeast of Harper for \$1.50 an acre. He planned to establish a ranch where sons of wealthy Englishmen could live and be taught successful farming and stockraising methods for \$500 a year plus living expenses. (Some sources report the fee as 500 pounds a year.) In 1888 Turnley went back to England, advertised his scheme in newspapers and periodicals, and then returned to Kansas and prepared living quarters for his anticipated "students." Most of the young men who came were the younger sons of wealthy English families. They were the so-called remittance men whose families furnished them with monthly allowances and sent them to Kansas with the hope that plains life and the Kansas prohibition laws would improve their behavior and make men of them.

The Runnymede colony reached its peak from about October, 1889, through the first half of 1890 when estimates of its population ranged from 50 to 100 persons. Most of the farming was actually done by proxy because the majority of the youthful English were more interested in sports and play than in work, and according to all accounts the prohibition laws were not consistently enforced and prodigious amounts of liquor were consumed by the colonists. Instead of an educational and training facility Runnymede became a socially-oriented community complete with a race track and polo grounds. In practice Runnymede strongly resembled a modern dude ranch.

By 1894 or 1895, however, the settlement was deserted and all buildings had been razed or moved. There were a number of reasons why the colony failed. The railroad originally scheduled to go through Runnymede was built two miles to the south. Contributing to the colony's failure was the inhabitants' lack of interest in the day-to-day farming and ranching operations. Also, when hard times came in the early 1890's, allowances from home were reduced or stopped and most of the remittance men returned to England.

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(Continuation Sheet) No. 1

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(Number all entries)

8. The idea of building a church was originated by Turnley some time in the spring of 1888 before his trip to England. After he returned a meeting was held at which it was announced that \$900 had been promised for the building fund. A charter was obtained, and the construction contract was awarded to a Wichita builder named Nixon, who was to have the building completed by December 17, 1889. Evidently construction was delayed because the foundation work was just beginning in mid-November, 1889, and the cornerstone ceremonies were held November 19, 1889, with the Rev. Dr. A. Beatty of Wellington presiding. The church, which was named St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, was completed in February, 1890, at an approximate cost of \$1,300. The interior furnishings, which included the baptismal font and a bronze plaque, were largely imported from England. (The plaque is a memorial to one of the colony's leading citizens, 23-year-old Richard Watmough, who died in a fire May 15, 1890.)

Lay leaders held occasional services in the Runnymede church until December, 1890, when the Rev. B. Hartley began regular services at both St. Patrick's Church in Runnymede and St. James' Church in Harper. On December 13, 1892, the Rev. John A. Dooris took charge of the parish, and early in 1893 a request was made of the bishop to have the unused St. Patrick's Church moved to Harper. On March 1, 1893, the Rev. R. W. Rhames was assigned to the Harper Episcopal church; work on the foundation for the church building began in April and cornerstone ceremonies were held May 5. The Runnymede church was moved to its present location in the summer of 1893, and a small frame addition was constructed. On October 10 consecration services were held by the Rt. Rev. E. T. Thomas, Bishop of the Kansas Diocese. The parish of St. James was active until 1957. The church building was leased by the city of Harper in 1959 and was later deeded to the Harper City Historical Society which renovated the structure in 1960 and now maintains it as a museum.

The old Runnymede Church is the only surviving building from Turnley's unique colony at Runnymede. It is important as a reminder of those colonists who attempted to bring a bit of England to the western frontier.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) No. 2

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(Number all entries)

9. "The Lost Town of Runnymede, Kas., Where Merry English Gentlemen Played at Farming," Kansas City Star, September 7, 1924.
Mayfield, Lydia, "Little 'England' Once on Kansas Prairie," Wichita Eagle Magazine, February 17, 1957.
"Race Track Only Relic of Historic Runnymede," Topeka Capital, January 30, 1927.
Rickards, Colin, "The Colonisers," Bowler Hats and Stetsons (London, Ronald Whiting and Wheaton, 1966), pp. 69-73.
"Runnymede," Wichita Daily Eagle, January 1, 1891.
Sanders, Gwendoline and Paul, The Harper County Story (North Newton, Kan., The Mennonite Press, 1968), pp. 138-142.
Seton, Charles, "Reminiscences of Runnymede," Kansas Historical Collections, v. 12 (1911-1912), pp. 467-469.
Thurman, Harriet, Collection. Manuscript Division, Kansas State Historical Society.
Waldron, N. B., Colonization in Kansas from 1861 to 1890 (dissertation submitted to Northwestern University in 1923), pp. 66-70.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Harper Church Last of Prairie Pipe Dream," Wichita Beacon, August 9, 1959.
Harper Sentinel, November 14, 21, 28, December 19, 1889, February 20, 27,
1890.

A Historical Collection of Harper County Churches (Anthony, Kan., Republican
Print, 1961), pp. 11, 12.

Hooper, Virginia S., They Had a Good Time While It Lasted (Santa Clara,
Calif., n. p., 1968).

Journal Proceedings of the Annual Conventions of the Protestant Episcopal
Church of the Diocese of Kansas (various publishers, 1889-1894).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	37	17	25
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	98	01	49
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles L. Hall, Architectural Consultant Richard Pankratz, Planner		DATE
ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society		February 29, 1972
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Topeka	STATE: Kansas 66612	CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-
tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law
89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion
in the National Register and certify that it has been
evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended
level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Nyle H. Miller
Nyle H. Miller

Title

Executive Director, Kansas
State Historical Society

Date

July 5, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the
National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS